



Catherine the Great

Ian Grey

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Catherine II of Russia was the most remarkable monarch of the eighteenth century. New York Times bestselling historian Ian Grey paints an illuminating portrait of an enigmatic woman of compelling charm and elegance. She had a prodigious appetite for work, great curiosity, and boundless ambition and vanity, and she was notorious for the number of her lovers. Her prodigal expenditures and patronage of the arts made her reign an era of splendor while her foreign policy and conquests carried Russian power and prestige to new heights. She cast a spell over most of her contemporaries in Russia and in Western Europe, and the spell has lingered. Here, in this book, is the dramatic story of an obscure German princess, without beauty or special advantage, but with courage, charisma, and determination, who became one of the arbiters of the affairs of Europe and renowned in history.

Catherine the Great Details

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From Reader Review Catherine the Great for online ebook

Elaine says

I enjoyed this book about Catherine's life since I did not know much about her. I had visited her palace in Russia several years ago and it was beautiful. She was beloved by the Russian people and she was very political savvy. Catherine was a strong, intelligent woman who made it her business to be self educated.

June Kimball says

June Kimball & Goodreads

At times it felt like a summary of events with a lot to digest. Kindle version would have benefitted greatly with maps of 18th century Russia and Europe. It would have made it easier to follow.

Anna says

Clearly written

The author presented a description of Catherine's personal life without getting bogged down in salacious details. She was a paradox that defines any simple description, but he manages to give a balanced view of her reign . As he pointed out, her reign made the Russian revolution inevitable.

CK DesGrosseilliers says

Let me take Grey to task over how he shows Catharine's love life. First, she was not "oversexed". Second, the variety of lovers was more to protect her position than for boredom. Third, how many male leaders of the time had such freedom to love or f*ck who they wanted?

Bringing stereotypical, old-fashioned ideas of female sexuality to a biography of one of the world's most powerful women will undermine all other points made.
